

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
11 October 1984

INTELLIGENCE BUDGET APPROVED
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WASHINGTON

Congress approved the 1985 intelligence bill Thursday, authorizing what was described as the largest intelligence budget in U.S. history -- although the amount is classified and spread among several agencies.

During brief debate on the bill in the Senate, Sen. Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., said the bill "will provide the largest budget for an intelligence community that has ever been made available by this Congress."

The authorization bill covers intelligence activities of the Central Intelligence Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration and the Departments of Defense, State, Treasury and Energy.

Moynihan, vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the budget had reached a peak after eight years of steady increases due largely to the acquisition of expensive high technology equipment needed to help the intelligence agencies do their jobs.

"The large budgetary increases that followed from a long period of decline have now reached their limit," Moynihan said.

He said the budget increases had been approved through the bipartisan work on both the Senate and House intelligence panels.

Moynihan's remarks appeared to be another rebuttal to charges earlier this month by President Reagan that the U.S. intelligence community had suffered a serious decline under the Carter administration.

"The present size of the appropriations and authorizations ... comes about in the aftermath of a continuous increase that now takes place over eight consecutive fiscal years," Moynihan said.

"Beginning in fiscal 1978, which was the first full budget submitted by the Carter administration, the programs have increased in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, and 1985," he said.